

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-07 /011 W
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R 140620Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1334
INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0269

LIMDIS

FOR M/MED DEPUTY ASST SECY WATSON

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMED, PFOR, PINS
SUBJ: DEPT DOCTORS' ESCORTING OF PATIENTS TO FIELD POSTS

REF: STATE 54290

1. DR. FRANK K. JOHNSON OF DG/MED ARRIVED IN DOHA MARCH 9
ESCORTING ZUHAIR RAMZI MUSTAFA, A MENTALLY DISTURBED STUDENT.
ONLY NOTICE POST HAD WAS MESSAGE REQUESTING THAT POST MEET
AND ASSIST, WITHOUT ANY IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENT.

2. ON ARRIVAL, WE LEARNED THAT ZUHAIR WAS SON OF RAMZI MAHMOUD
MUSTAFA, A LONG-TIME PALESTINIAN RESIDENT OF OMAN, WHO HAD
RECENTLY BEEN EXPELLED BY OMANGOV, AND WHO NOW LIVING IN DOHA.
ACCORDING INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, MUSTAFA HAD RESIDED
IN OMAN SINCE 1954 WHERE HAD HAD BEEN FIRST A TEACHER AND LATER
AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT MUSTAFA WAS EXPELLED FROM OMAN IN JANUARY AFTER
SOME SORT OF ALTERCATION WITH A SHAYKH HAMAD BIN AHMAD,
DESCRIBED AS AN OFFICIAL OF THE SULTAN'S DIWAN.

3. DR. JOHNSON TOLD US THAT HE WAS UNAWARE UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL
IN DOHA OF THE ABOVE BACKGROUND. HE SAID THAT AFME HAD REQUESTED
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THE DEPT'S ASSISTANCE IN ESCORTING MUSTAFA'S SON TO DOHA, SINCE

AFME RESPONSIBLE FOR SON UNDER TERMS OF ITS STUDENT HANDLING CONTRACT WITH OMAN GOVT. DR. JOHNSON SAID THAT HE CLEARED HIS TRIP WITH THE APPROPRIATE DESK.

4. WHILE WE ARE AWARE OF THE PRAISEWORTHY HUMANITARIAN AND UTILITARIAN ASPECTS OF DR. JOHNSON'S ESCORT OF MUSTAFA, THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY POTENTIAL SENSITIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THIS CASE WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASCERTAINED BEFORE USG INVOLVED ITSELF. WE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST BEEN INFORMED OF IDENTITY OF PATIENT AND ASKED TO CHECK OUT SITUATION. OUR OFFICIAL ATTENTION TO MUSTAFA, NO MATTER HOW INNOCENT, COULD BE MISINTERPRETED IN HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS ATMOSPHERE HERE. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT ZUHAIR WAS MET BY OMANI EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO ALSO HAD BOOKED DR. JOHNSON A HOTEL ROOM.

5. AS YET, WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO REPERCUSSIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT, AND MAY NEVER HEAR ANOTHER THING ABOUT IT. HOWEVER, IN FUTURE WE AND THE DEPT SHOULD BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT SUCH MISSIONS TO AVOID THE POTENTIAL OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE TOLD DR. JOHNSON IN TERMS SIMILIAR TO ABOVE THAT THIS MATTER COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER HANDLED, AND THAT MORE CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE FUTURE. NOTING THAT DR. JOHNSON IS A PSYCHIATRIST, WE HOPE THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE DEPARTMENT THINK US PARANOID*
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